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Sanitary report from Havana.

HAVANA, CUBA, April 21, 1899.

SIR: The following report for the week ended Thursday, April 20, is respectfully submitted. The mortality for this period is attached to this report.

There were no deaths reported from yellow fever. The last one from this cause being in the person of Captain Williams of the British steamship *North Anglia*, while said vessel was lying at a wharf at Casa Blanca. As reported in another communication, this death occurred on Friday, April 7, after an illness of less than forty-eight hours.

Previous to this case developing at Casa Blanca 2 cases of the disease were removed from said place, the persons infected being of the residential population.

One death occurred from smallpox in the hospital known as La Benifica. This was the first death from that disease in several months. There is a widespread epidemic of measles in the city; 1 death is recorded from the disease. There is also an outbreak of diphtheria, and while only 1 death is recorded it is possible that the deaths in this table from croup should be charged to diphtheria. Antitoxin is being used here and with the same success that is credited to it elsewhere.

The deaths from all causes are less this week than any previous one since I began recording them in 1897. The absence of yellow fever I can not understand. With the United States troops quartered in this city, and with the large number of Americans who still remain, and nearly all of whom are nonimmune, it was to be expected that more cases and deaths from the disease would result by this time.

The sanitary conditions have improved and no one can find fault with the methods employed generally, but at the same time no one who knows the situation should expect that any permanent sanitary work could be performed in less than three months. Nor could any one hope that the said work could have any effect in reducing the death rate or could have any appreciable effect in checking the spread of yellow fever.

Disinfection.—The work of disinfecting vessels bound for ports in the United States began on April 3, and up to the 20th instant 20 vessels had been disinfected. The class of vessels treated here were as follows: Steamers, 4; barks, 1; schooners, 14.

These vessels were bound for different ports in the Gulf and on the South Atlantic Coast. One vessel, a steamer from Charleston, S. C., came here with a general cargo from that city, and by special request of Dr. Horlbeck, health officer of the city of Charleston, she was disinfected in order that she could proceed to Central American ports for a cargo of fruit and then return to her original port of departure.

By disinfection here, this vessel was the pioneer of a trade made possible between southern ports and Havana, and I look on this new departure as the greatest help to southern commerce ever extended by the National Government, and a help which is beyond the reach of municipal or State boards of health.

I can not see why southern ports should not enjoy now many advantages heretofore not available to them.

The disinfecting plant has worked rapidly, but what is more to the purpose, efficiently in nearly every detail. The work was begun and nearly all of it conducted under the personal supervision of Surgeon H. R. Carter. No further indorsement is necessary, as I take it that his work would be accepted at any port in the United States. Every detail

of the work has increased at this port and a short statement with a few figures will demonstrate this fact. We have examined over 9,000 persons since January 1. This number does not include several thousand soldiers, and we have inspected 520 vessels leaving this port since January 1. The quarantine work done here during the present year will be greater than that of any other port in the world.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

Mortality for the week ended Thursday, April 20, 1899.

[Inclosure.]

Enteric fever, 5; pernicious fever, 1; malarial fever, 11; smallpox, 1; measles, 1; diphtheria, 1; dysentery, 1; enteritis, 18; croup, 3; pneumonia, 3; tuberculosis, 26; deaths from all causes, 130.

Inspection quarantine at Havana against Key West on account of smallpox.

HAVANA, CUBA, April 9, 1899.

SIR: On account of the existence of smallpox at Key West, I have instituted an inspection quarantine against vessels from that port entering Cuban ports. Evidence of immunity to smallpox is required of crews and passengers for entry, and the health officer of Florida has been requested to furnish certificates of vaccination to these people so as to prevent delay to vessels.

Very respectfully,

H. R. CARTER,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

A brief report of the work being done by the barge Protector at Havana, under the supervision of Surgeon H. R. Carter.

HAVANA, CUBA, April 14, 1899.

SIR: A brief report of what we are doing and purpose to do, with the *Protector*, may be of interest.

I am at present directing the disinfecting work, giving it my personal supervision.

The *Protector* is lying in the "Tricornia," a bight of the harbor on the side opposite Havana, between the wharf (building by the United States) and Santa Catalina, about one-third to one-half mile from shore, which, except for the Standard Oil Company's plant, is here uninhabited, and receives no creek or river. It is the best place in the harbor, and I consider free from infection from shore.

It is purposed, save in exceptional instances, to send vessels which have or have had yellow fever aboard to Tortugas; or in the case of steamers, to disinfect them with their own steam without coming alongside. In addition, the floor of the hold where the disinfecting is done and the deck of the *Protector* washed down every other day with bichloride solution as a routine measure, and whenever it is necessary to wet the deck to prevent injury by sun, this is done with the